

IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims are as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a storage device sensitive to vibrations in an environment with a source of vibrations, characterized in that the method comprises the following acts:

measuring the signal performance of the storage device;
and

when the measured signal performance of the storage device decreases below a pre-determined level, taking action to reduce the influence of vibrations generated by the source of vibrations, wherein the signal performance of the storage device includes at least one of access time of the storage device, data access rate, and data storage rate.

2. (Cancelled) .

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signal performance of the storage device is indicated by an average bit-rate of the storage device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the action comprises an act of providing a message to a user to reduce the vibrations.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the source of vibrations is a first loudspeaker, and the first loudspeaker and the storage device are contained in the same housing, wherein the action comprises an act of switching sound reproduction from the first loudspeaker to a second loudspeaker that is remote from the storage device.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the source of vibrations is a loudspeaker, and the action comprises an act of reducing the volume of the sound produced by the loudspeaker.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the measured signal performance decreases below the pre-determined level and the environmental temperature of the storage device is above a further pre-determined level, no action is taken.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein:

the housing is a consumer electronics apparatus;

the storage device is arranged to record an incoming stream of audio-visual data;

the consumer electronics apparatus is arranged to reproduce the incoming stream of audio-visual data by means of a display screen and the loudspeaker; and

wherein the method further comprises acts of:

 storing the incoming stream of audio-visual data on a disk by the storage device; and

 reproducing the stored stream of audio-visual data stored on the disk by means of the display screen and the loudspeaker.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the action to reduce the influence of vibrations generated by the source of vibrations comprises an act of advising a user to render the incoming stream of audio-visual data instead of the stored stream of audio-visual data.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5,

wherein:

 the housing is a consumer electronics apparatus arranged to reproduce audio-visual data;

 the second loudspeaker is not contained in the consumer electronics apparatus, the second loudspeaker being connected to the consumer electronics apparatus; and

 the action comprises acts of:

 reducing reproduction of the audio-visual data through the first loudspeaker contained in the consumer electronics apparatus; and

 starting or increasing reproduction of the audio-visual data through the second loudspeaker.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the source of vibrations is comprised by a first apparatus and the storage device is comprised by a second apparatus;

the first and the second apparatus are connected through a network link; and

the action comprises an act of controlling the first apparatus by reducing the power of the vibrations caused by the source of vibrations.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined level is replaced by a further lower predetermined level when the measured signal performance of the storage device is below the predetermined level for a predetermined period.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the act of measuring the signal performance of the storage device comprises an act of keeping statistics on the signal performance of the storage device and the action is performed when the statistics drop below the predetermined level.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the statistics includes one of average access time of the storage device, median access time of the storage device, standard

deviation of the access time of the storage device, and average bit-rate of the storage device.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the storage device is a disk drive.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the action comprises an act of halting activities related to the storage device other than storage and retrieval of audio-visual data.

17. (Previously Presented) A circuit for operating a storage device in an environment with a source of vibrations, the circuit comprising a processor, characterized in that the processor is arranged to:

measure the signal performance of the storage device; and when the measured signal performance of the storage device decreases below a pre-determined level, take action to reduce the influence of vibrations generated by the source of vibrations, wherein the performance of the storage device includes at least one of access time of the storage device, data access rate, and data storage rate.

18. (Previously Presented) A consumer electronics apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a stream of audio-visual data;

a storage device for storing the stream of audio-visual data on a disk;

a source of vibrations; and

the circuit as claimed in claim 17 for operating the storage device.

19. (Previously Presented) The consumer electronics apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the source of vibrations is a disk drive arranged to spin a disk in operation.

20. (Previously Presented) The consumer electronics apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the source of vibrations is a loudspeaker.